



**DISPOSITIO: The Organization of an Argument, according to classical rhetoric**

| Latin Term                     | English term and description:   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <i>Exordium</i>                | <p>Introduction of the work</p> <p>Composed of two main functions: to inform the audience of the object of the discourse and to dispose the audience to be receptive to the argument.</p> <p>There are 5 types of introductions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Inquisitive—Shows that the subject is interesting, important, or odd.</li><li>2. Paradoxical—Sets up an expectation or implicit agreement on the reader's part, then contradicts it.</li><li>3. Corrective—Shows that the topic has been neglected or ignored.</li><li>4. Preparatory—The writer "prepares" the reader for the discourse by talking about it or apologizing or qualifying the following text.</li><li>5. Narrative—One of the most effective intros, this gambit tells an anecdote or story to snag the reader's interest and identify the subject.</li></ol> |
| <i>Narratio</i>                | <p>Statement of fact, Description of topic, Exposition:</p> <p>This section informs the audience about the most important features or facts concerning the topic of the discourse. A scholarly review of statistics, authoritative opinion, literature, etc. would be appropriate here. In Lit articles, there is often a bibliographic endnote associated with the narratio.</p>   |
| <i>Confirmatio or Probatio</i> | <p>Confirmation or Proof:</p> <p>This area provides the argument of the paper. Here the writer will likely define terms to her/his advantage, make logically-connected claims, offer supporting material to buttress those claims, and come to a compelling conclusion.</p>   |
| <i>Refutatio</i>               | <p>Refutation:</p> <p>In this section of the discourse, the writer will undermine opposing claims or arguments by appealing to: reason, emotion, ethics, and wit or word play (including analogy).</p>  |
| <i>Peroratio</i>               | <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>According to Aristotle, a conclusion should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leave the audience with a favorable impression of the writer's credentials and intentions</li><li>• Stress the important claims made and weaken contradicting claims</li><li>• Spark the audience's interest appropriately</li><li>• Recapitulate or summarize the most important points</li></ul>   |